



Money Explorer

You can use money to buy things. You can also use it to help other people. Do you know the difference between paper money and coins? Do you know how much each is worth in the United States? Let's find out!

Steps

1. Find out about different coins
2. Know more about paper money
3. Try using paper and coin money

Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I will know how much paper bills and coins are worth and how to use money.



Step 1: Find out about different coins

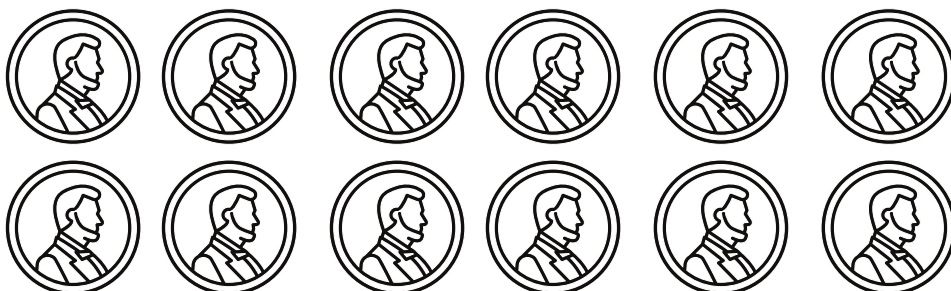
Every country in the world has currency, which is their official money. Most currencies use paper bills and coins as money. Rather than use money to buy goods, some cultures exchange goods directly by swapping one item for another. In the United States, the currency is bills in different dollar amounts and four main types of coins. Each has a different value. Do you know what they are? Do coins have more or less value than paper money?

Choices—do one:

Coin count! With a Daisy friend, place a bunch of play or real coins on a table. Together, sort the coins into different cups in a muffin tin or egg carton. Put all the pennies in one cup, nickels in another, dimes in another, and quarters in another. What is the same or different about the coins? Which one is the largest? The smallest? Why do you think that is? What color is each coin?

Clip your coins. Tape a penny, a nickel, a dime, and a quarter in the middle of separate paper plates. If you don't have coins, draw them in the center of the plate. Then place the number of paper clips, beads, or other small objects around the edge of each plate that shows how much that coin is worth.

Color enough pennies to equal one dime.



Coins

Below are the coins used in the United States.

Each coin has a different value.

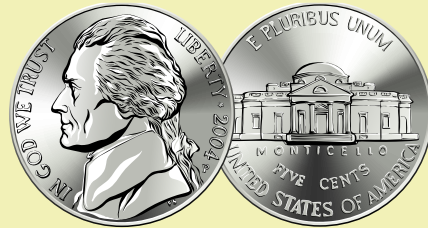
A penny = 1 cent.

The 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, is on the front of the penny. On the back is a Union Shield with words that mean “out of many, one.”



A nickel = 5 cents.

The 3rd president, Thomas Jefferson, is on the front of the nickel. On the back is Monticello, which was Jefferson’s home in Virginia.



A dime = 10 cents.

The 32nd president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, is on the front of the dime. On the back is the torch of liberty, an olive branch for peace, and an oak branch for strength and independence.



A quarter = 25 cents.

The 1st president, George Washington, is on the front of the quarter. The back design changes often. It’s been an eagle, national parks, and a drummer.



Step 2: Know more about paper money

In Step 1, you found out how much different coins in the United States are worth. Now get to know the value of paper bills.

Choices—do one:

Dollar pile up! Make piles of coins that add up to one dollar (100 cents). Start with 100 pennies, then 20 nickels, 10 dimes, and finally 4 quarters. Would it be easier to carry 100 pennies or 4 quarters in a wallet?

Count it up. Some paper bills are worth more than one dollar. Look at several bills of play money. Find the number on each bill that tells you what it's worth. Now count out how many one-dollar bills would equal a five-dollar bill. Do the same with a ten-dollar bill.

Words to Know

Change: The difference between what something costs and the money you give to pay for it. For example, if something costs 50 cents and you give the cashier one dollar, you will get 50 cents in change back.

Currency: The official money of a country. In the United States, coins and bills are the currency.

Value: What something is worth.

Fun Fact!

“Paper money” is not really made of paper. Bills are made of cotton and linen, like cloth. That’s why they don’t fall apart in a washing machine!

Bills are also made with magnetic ink.

To try it out yourself, all you need is a strong magnet.

Ask an adult for a dollar bill.

Now run your magnet close to where there is a lot of ink. (See the photo.)

Does it stick to the magnet?

It should! That’s because the special ink used is magnetic. The special ink helps prevent someone from making fake money.



Step 3: Try using paper and coin money

Now that you know what paper bills and coins are worth, practice how to use money.

Choices—do one:

Pretend you're a store owner. At home or in your meeting room, set up a pretend shop. Ask friends or family to be customers. Gather up small items and put them on a table. These might be things like a ruler, cup, or a pencil case. Use sticky notes to write prices on the items or put a tag with the price next to the item. Make sure to use the dollar or cent symbol. Have customers buy the items using play money. Ask an adult to help you make change.

► **For more fun:** Use a lunchbox as your cashbox!

Draw and buy. Draw five things you'd like to buy at a grocery store. Pretend it's for a project, like baking a cake or cleaning a room. What items will you need? With an adult's help, put a price next to each one. Then take your play money and place the right amount on top of each one. Did you have enough to buy what you need? Were you able to pay the exact amount for each item, or would you need change back from the store?





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Volunteer's Guide to the Money Explorer Badge*

Find tips and ideas to help guide your troop through this badge.

For virtual meetings, share the goals with families ahead of time and make sure Daisies have play money and other materials they need.

Step 1: Find out about different coins

- 10–20 minutes

Ask: Do you know the main four types of coins used in the United States?

Share: Money is made up of coins and paper bills. Money is used to buy things. It can also be used to help other people. Do you know the difference between paper money and coins? Do you know how much each is worth? Let's find out!

Choices–do one:

- **Coin count!** Form a circle and show Daisies real coins one by one and say what each coin is worth. Pass the coins around the circle. Talk about the coins and what makes them different from one another. (Size, weight, color.) Then break Daisies into groups so each has a muffin tray or egg carton and a pile of play coins, including pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Ask them to sort the different coins into different cups in their trays. Find out what was hard or easy about sorting the coins. Then place ten pennies, two nickels, and one dime in separate cups of one tray. Tell them that each cup equals the same amount of money. Do they see how a different mix of coins can have the same value?

Materials: *play money (coins), muffin tray or egg carton with at least six cups (enough for each group of 3–4), real coins (penny, nickel, dime, quarter) for opening demonstration*

- **Clip your coins.** Tape a penny, nickel, dime, and quarter in the middle of separate paper plates, enough for small groups of Daisies. Use real or play coins. Tell Daisies what each coin is worth. Then give each group the paper plates and ask them to place paper clips around the edge of the plate to show how much that coin is worth. When they're done, have them share their plates with the group. Direct them to the drawing of ten pennies in the badge booklet.

Ask them how much ten pennies equal. If they took away five pennies, how much would the remaining pennies add up to?

Materials: *play money (coins), paper plates, tape, crayons, or colored markers, paper clips*

Step 2: Know more about paper money

- 10–20 minutes

Ask: What does paper money look like? What is it worth?

Share: In Step 1, you saw that coins are worth different amounts of money. Now get to know the value of paper bills. Some paper bills are worth more than one dollar, such as the five- and ten-dollar bill.

Choices–do one:

- **Dollar pile up!** Show Daisies a one-, five-, and ten-dollar bill. Tell them what each is worth and let them know that coins add up to dollars. Divide Daisies into small teams and give each enough coins to make different piles that add up to a dollar. It could be 100 pennies, 20 nickels, 10 dimes, 4 quarters, or a combination of coins. Give each team paper money in single dollars, too. When their coins add up to a dollar, have them place the dollar bill next to the pile to show they're done. When each team finishes, have them share their piles with the group. Were any teams able to make more than one pile that added up to a dollar? What coins did they use?

Materials: *play money (paper money and coins)*

- **Count it up.** Show Daisies a one-, five-, and ten-dollar bill. Have them find the number on each bill that shows what it's worth. Divide Daisies into small teams and give them paper money of ones, fives, and tens. Ask them to count out how many one-dollar bills would equal a five-dollar bill. Then ask them to place a five-dollar bill next to that pile. Have them do the same for a ten-dollar bill. Ask each team to share their work with the group. Then hold up two five-dollar bills and ask them how much it adds up to.

Materials: *play paper money*

*Detailed choice activities, meeting tools, and additional resources and materials can be found within the Volunteer Toolkit on my.girlscouts.org.

Step 3: Try using paper and coin money

- 20–30 minutes

Ask: Are there things you like to do that cost money? What else can you think of that costs money?

Share: When you see the ¢ symbol (looks like a small “c” with a diagonal line running through it) after a number, it means cents. When you see the \$ symbol (looks like a capital “S” with one of two lines running down through it) before a number, it means that many dollar bills. Now that you know what paper bills and coins are worth, let’s practice how to use money.

Choices–do one:

● **Pretend you’re a store owner.** Assign a few Daisies to be store owners and have them set up their pretend shop by gathering small items from the meeting room or random household items you’ve brought from home. Ask them to use sticky notes to write the prices on the items using the \$ and ¢ symbols. Make sure the “store owners” have money for change. Explain that change is the difference between what something costs and the money given to pay for it. For example, if their item costs 50 cents and a customer gives them one dollar, they need change back. Tell them you’ll help with making change. Give Daisy “customers” some play money to buy items. Encourage them to ask how much things cost and to count out their own play money. When everyone has had a chance to play both roles, ask Daisies if it was easier being a customer or store owner and why. For virtual meetings, Daisies can find items in their home to “sell” and show to the rest of the troop as you guide them through the transactions.

Materials: *play money (paper money and coins), sticky notes and pens*

● **Draw and buy.** Have Daisies draw their five grocery store items on separate pieces of paper or spaced apart on one paper. Tell them to put a price next to each drawing. Help them figure out what the cost might be. Then give each Daisy the same amount of play money in bills and coins. Have them place the correct amount of play money on top of each drawing. Did they have enough to buy their items? If not, how much more would they need? Were they able to pay the right amount of money for each item? What change would they get?

Materials: *play money (paper money and coins), paper, crayons, or colored markers*

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